

Veteran RNs and LPNs were very similar in terms of their gender distributions. As shown in Table 4, 2% of RNs and 2.5% of LPNs were male. Note, however, that gender information was missing for 3.5% of LPNs cases, so the actual percentage of males may be higher. Due to the small number of male veteran nurses, it was not possible to analyze how other demographic traits might vary by gender.

As might be expected because women tend to live longer than men, the proportion of RNs who are married declines with age. However, that association holds true only for veteran RNs. LPNs did not, as a group, show any change in marital status as they aged. The proportions and chi-square test results are summarized in Table 5.

Table 5. Relationship between marital status and age for veteran RNs and LPNs

Employment status for:	Age Categories		
	46 - 55	56 - 65	66 and older
RNs	N=118	N=139	N=99
% married	83.0	66.2	59.6
% not married	16.9	33.8	40.4
χ^2 p-value	0.0004		
LPNs	N=79	N=67	N=62
% married	64.6	65.7	64.5
% not married	35.4	34.3	35.5
χ^2 p-value	0.9873		

Employment Characteristics

Tables 6 through 9 address the employment characteristics of veteran RNs and LPNs. Current employment in nursing was not required in order for veteran nurses to be included in the study. In fact, other employment states such as being retired were of particular interest. Therefore, all veteran nurses are included in the analyses that make up Tables 6 and 7. The analyses in Tables 8 and 9 address specific employment issues and so are restricted to only those veteran nurses who were employed full or part time in nursing at the time of the survey.

Veteran RNs and LPNs were very similar in most regards on employment status (see Table 6). The majority of both types of nurses were employed in nursing positions, and equal proportions were not employed at the time of the survey, or reported being retired. The one place where veteran RNs and LPNs differed was in the percent employed outside of nursing, but the difference was not enough to reach statistical significance.